Returns to 5146 Egypt (48)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR THE PRESS

OCTOBER 17, 1951 NO.944

At his press conference today, Secretary Acheson made the following statement:

EGYPTIAN REJECTION OF MIDDLE EAST COMMAND PROPOSALS

It is with genuine regret that the United States Government received notification on October 15 of the rejection by the Egyptian Government of the proposals presented to it on October 13 by the United States, France, Turkey and the United Kingdom. This Government has noted with surprise that the Egyptian Government rejected proposals of such importance without having given them the careful and considered deliberation which they merited. These proposals were formulated by the nations interested in the welfare and security of the Middle East after the most intensive and thorough consideration of the special problems of the area. The invitation to join with the other sovereign nations of the free world in a joint and cooperative effort to make the world safe from aggression was wholly consistent with the independence and sovereignty of Egypt.

Vigilance in protecting the liberties we enjoy is the responsibility of every nation of the free world. The spirit of responsibility to others requires that no nation carelessly precipitate events which can have no constructive end but which by their nature create those elements of confusion and weakness which tempt aggression. It is the hope of the United States Government that Egypt will carefully reconsider the course of action on which it has embarked and will recognize that its own interest will be served by joining the other nations of the free world in assuring the defense of the Middle East against the common danger.

The United States Government must reaffirm its belief that the action of the Egyptian Government with respect to the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936 and the agreements of 1899 regarding the Sudan is not in accord with proper respect for international obligations. For its part, the United States Government considers the action of the Egyptian Government to be without validity.

It is the sincere hope of the United States that great restraint will be shown in the present situation and that the obligation of all nations towards the preservation of world law and order will be respected.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE/ADC/DE
REVIEWED BY WDW JR DATE 5/25/82

* *RDS☒ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
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